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Oakes African-American
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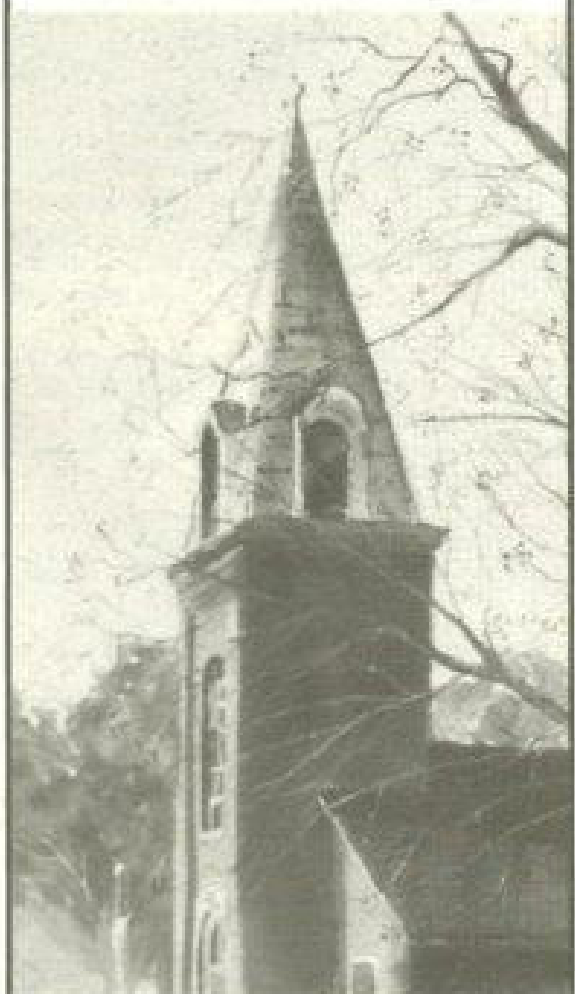
Gift and Antique Shop

HISTORIC CHURCHES

IN

DOWNTOWN

YAZOO CITY



**Bethel African Methodist
Episcopal Church**

(Painting by Hope Carr)

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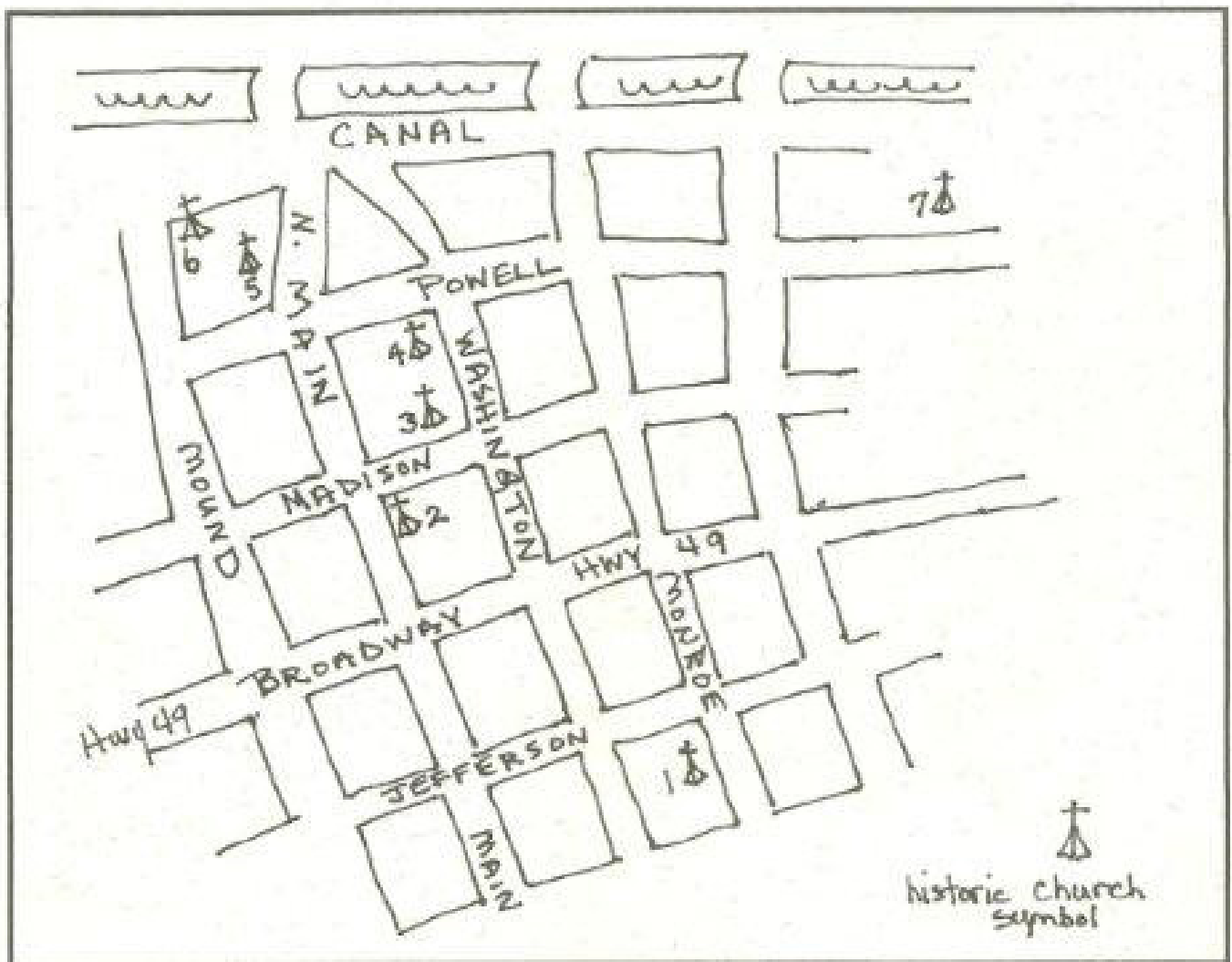
**Yazoo County
Convention & Visitors Bureau**

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www.yazoo.org 1-800-381-0662



1. Bethel AME Church, 214 South Monroe
2. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Corner Main and Madison
3. First United Methodist Church, 203 N. Washington
4. First Presbyterian Church, 231 N. Washington
5. Trinity Episcopal Church, 323 N. Main
6. Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church, 137 W. Canal
7. St. Francis Catholic Church, East Powell

1. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

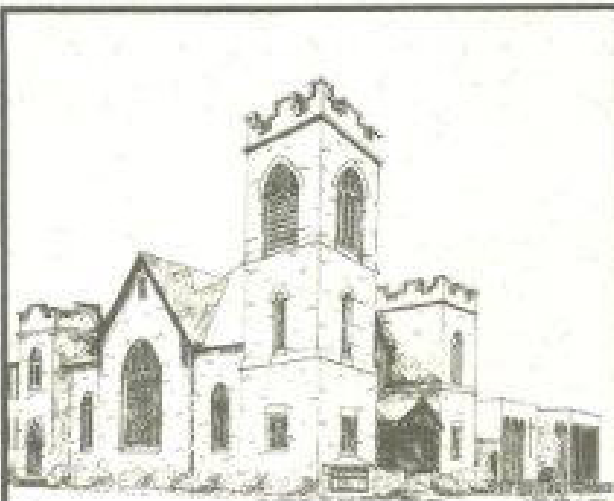
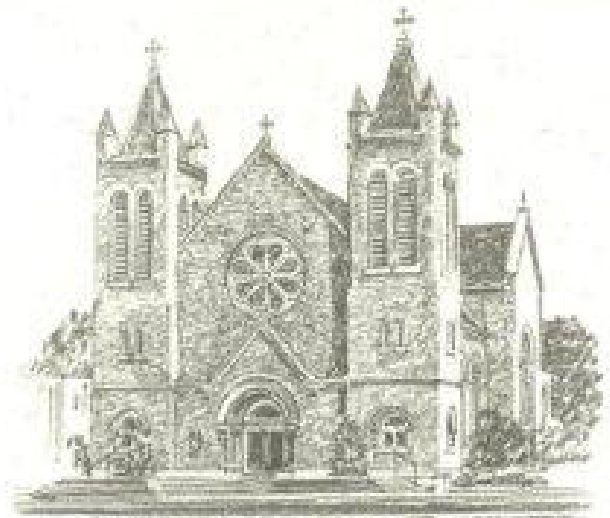
214 South Monroe

Pictured on front from a painting by Hope Carr, Yazoo City artist who also drew the map above. This was the first brick church to be erected by blacks in the state of Mississippi. The pulpit furniture and the bell and bell tower are part of the original church structure.

2. St. Mary's Catholic Church

Main at Madison Street

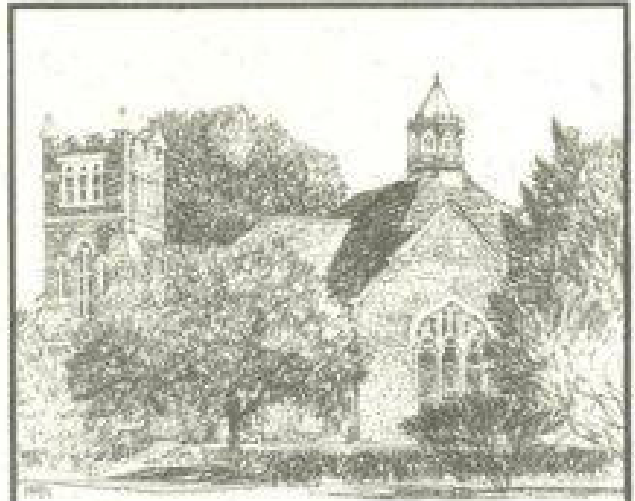
The first church of St. Mary Catholic Church, organized in 1851, was a small white wooden framed building completed around 1856 at the church's present location. Two lovely brick churches have been erected at this site since then, with 1907 being the date the existing church was erected. Beautiful stained glass windows as well as intricate work and design is worth admiring in the historical church. St. Mary's celebrates 150 years in 2001.



3. First United Methodist Church

Washington at Madison

First Methodist services were held in Yazoo City as early as 1828. In 1889 a beautiful brick church was built on the site of the present church. This building was destroyed in the fire of 1904. Through heroic efforts of its members, the present main structure of the church was completed in 1908.



4. First Presbyterian Church

Washington at Powell

Formed on August 15, 1841, some of the current members are descended from the original seven founders. After the 1904 fire, the present church was built in 1905. The beautiful sanctuary seats 365 in "theater" seats rather than conventional pews. If needed, 600 can be seated by mechanically raising a wall which divides the sanctuary and chapel areas.



5. Trinity Episcopal Church

323 North Main

This is the third church to stand on this site. The first had been built only six years when it was destroyed by fire in 1904. One year later the church was rebuilt, only to be flooded by the Mississippi River and its tributaries in 1927. Again, six years later, in 1933, the church was devastated by a tornado which left only the altar, flowers, and prayer book that were left standing for Sunday services.

The present structure was completed in 1941. The altar of General John J. Pershing from St. Luke's Episcopal Church in the Philippines, given by an early rector of Trinity, is used today in the chapel.



6. Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church

137 West Canal

This church dates back to a very few years from slavery. In 1870, the Reverend Newton Thomas organized the first Negro Baptist Congregation in Yazoo City, Mississippi, which later became the Mt. Vernon Church. In 1877, T. J. Ross sold to L. C. Jordan, who was then pastor, lot number 458 and part of lot number 544 on North Main Street for twenty dollars. It was on this lot that the first Mt. Vernon Church, a wood frame structure, was built. This church burned in the early 1920s and the present edifice was built in 1926. Special features include the beautiful stained windows and the balcony with Gothic lettering and stairway.

7. St. Francis Catholic

Up the Hill on Powell

Although not as old as the other churches in this district, St. Francis of Assisi Church was dedicated in 1942, joining St. Francis School in this area. Built of brick, its simple lines reminiscent of a barn, the church was designed by Jackson architect James P. Canizaro and cost \$10,000 to build. Of interest is that this location, which had been a lonely, rugged bluff where Confederate cannons had guarded the Yazoo River, is now 60 feet lower than when it was purchased. Thanks to Joe Hamel, a parishioner of St. Mary and a friend of this fledgling mission, ten thousand yards of dirt were removed from this bluff.

